



August 2007 Newsletter



Register Now for the Afterschool Transformation Conference!

Registration has begun for the **Afterschool Transformation: Results for Kids Through High Quality Programs Conference**. This Conference will provide the opportunity to learn about the latest in afterschool curriculum and activities, relationship-building, program administration, health and wellness, and more! The Conference will be held September 28-29, 2007 in Des Moines.

To register for the Conference, click [here](#). ISACA members receive a registration discount.

Not a member of the Iowa School Age Care Alliance?

The Iowa School Age Care Alliance is a membership organization dedicated to the development, education, and care of children and youth during their out-of-school hours. ISACA promotes standards of quality school-age care and provides opportunities for collaboration and professional development. For more information on ISACA, or to receive a membership form, please contact Leslie Glenn at leslieglenn@msn.com.

Exhibitors

Don't miss this opportunity to share your products and services to approximately 500 attendees. [Click here](#).

Before and Afterschool State Funded Grant Program Awardees Announced

Five school districts and four other organizations will receive funds from a \$900,000 grant to provide before and afterschool programs to improve student achievement. The 2007 Iowa Legislature appropriated funds to expand the availability of before and afterschool programs and enable communities to design and implement effective before and afterschool programs, which are to be sustained beyond the term of the grant through community partnerships. The grants are awarded for a period of one year.

The grant awards will be made to the following organizations:

Boys and Girls Clubs of Cedar Rapids: \$54,240

Clinton Community School District: \$132,434

Clear Creek Amana Community School District: \$187,530

Jesup Community School District: \$102,606

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) Newsletter is a monthly venue of information and updates on afterschool programs and policies. For more information, please contact Brooke Findley at bfindley@sppg.com or 515-243-2000.

New Leadership for the IAA

This month, staff leadership of the Iowa Afterschool Alliance will be transferred to Brooke Findley. A senior program manager at State Public Policy Group, Brooke has worked on the Iowa Afterschool Alliance since SPPG began staffing the IAA in 2006. At SPPG, Brooke leads projects in a variety of areas including grant writing, research, marketing, and strategic planning. Before coming to SPPG, Brooke worked in the Iowa Legislature and for the Iowa Treasurer's Office. Brooke is a former childcare worker and a longtime supporter of afterschool programs. She graduated from Drake University with a degree in Environmental Policy. Brooke can be reached at 515-243-2000 or bfindley@sppg.com.

Lamoni SAFE Coalition: \$81,092

Oakridge Neighborhood Services: \$75,000

Postville Community School District: \$74,000

St. Mark's Community Center: \$56,572

Storm Lake Community School District: \$136,526

Statewide Afterschool Poll to be Conducted

According to the 2006 Iowa Youth Survey, 73% of 6th graders and 85% of 8th graders say they spend at least one to four hours unsupervised each day. Responding to these figures, the IAA Data Workgroup has developed a comprehensive poll to gather information about the state of afterschool in Iowa. The poll focuses on three key areas: need, access, and affordability/funding. The poll will be sent to 2,500 randomly selected Iowa households throughout the state in October, and the results will be used to highlight successes and shortfalls in Iowa's afterschool efforts.

Advancing Youth Development Training Offered in Des Moines

This twenty-four hour training is being offered at no charge October 9-10 and 16-17 in Des Moines, Iowa. Considered a must for any new or seasoned youth worker, this training is designed for youth-serving professionals and volunteers who work directly with youth ages 10-20. This interactive training develops a common language for working with young people, the value and importance of youth participation, the reasons behind some of our failures to work and communicate effectively with young people, the skills and competencies necessary to work in tandem with this population, and the services, opportunities, and supports we need to provide to young people. Participants must be available for all four days of training and registration is required. To register, log on or register at www.icyd.org. Once your registration is approved, you can click on Event Registration and register for the Advancing Youth Development training. Have questions? Contact Amy Croll at amy.croll@iowa.gov or 515-281-5999.

Mark Your Calendars for the Upcoming Youth Program Quality Assessment Overview!

September 13th 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., available on ICN. Contact Nicole Hill for more details and to request an ICN site at 515-243-2000.

Tell Your Congress Members to Increase 21st Century Funding!

On July 19th, the full House of Representatives voted to increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers afterschool initiative by \$125 million next year. This victory results from hard work by activists who have been educating Congress about the harm caused by funding freezes.

But this work is not yet over. The Senate still has to vote on its spending bill, which includes a much smaller increase. Afterschool activists must keep up the pressure on Congress to keep the House-passed \$125 million increase, which means afterschool programs for another 125,000 students.

Afterschool supporters around the country are using the August recess to educate Members of Congress about what is at stake with this appropriation. Those with summer programs are inviting their Representatives and Senators to visit. Others are setting up meetings at which they will urge Members to increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. Still others are identifying the town hall meetings, community events and forums at which Members will be connecting with constituents, and planning for afterschool program directors, parents and other supporters to have a presence there. For tips on how to organize a site visit or meeting, or send a message to Members of Congress, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org or call us at 515-243-2000.

Please let Erin Drinnin at the Iowa Afterschool Alliance know if you send a letter, attend a meeting, or receive a response from a Member of Congress by emailing edrinnin@sppg.com.

New Out-of-School Time Resource from the Harvard Family Research Project

Growing evidence tells us that quality after school programs can make a difference in children's lives. But what defines quality in after school settings? This brief by HFRP's Priscilla Little offers an overview of the features of high-quality after school settings, including an examination of key research on links between program quality and developmental outcomes. The brief, published by Child Care & Early Education Research Connections, also reviews current practice in program quality assessment, and a set of quality-related considerations for policymakers. You can read it online at: <http://www.researchconnections.org/location/ccrca12576>